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Immigration Essay Outline

PART ONE: INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

STEP ONE: Create a 2-part thesis statement that will guide your essay. What is the greatest problem your immigrant faces in his or her home country, and/or what is the greatest problem he or she faces after immigration, as a refugee, or a person placed in an internment camp. **THIS IS YOUR OPINION OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEM** but it should NOT use the word **!**

TO DO THIS:

Evaluate **your book** and the challenges that the character or characters face in their country and those that they face as immigrants, refugees, or interned people.

Evaluate what **the documents** show you about the challenges that people face in their own country and outside of their country.

Evaluate what **the documents** show about how people in the United States are treated after they leave from their country whether they are immigrants, refugees, or interned people.

Consider what they may have in common.

Sample theses for *Enrique's Journey*

1. In *Enrique's Journey*, Enrique's greatest struggle is the constant threat of violence during his journey through Latin America and Mexico from gangs, bandits, and other delinquents, and once he is in America his greatest struggle continues to be the violence that he faces from gang members.
 2. In *Enrique's Journey*, Enrique's greatest struggle is with drug abuse in Honduras, which he claims is caused by his mother's abandonment, but once he reunites with his mother in America, drug abuse remains his greatest struggle.
 3. In *Enrique's Journey*, Enrique's greatest challenge while traveling in Mexico is prejudice against Central American immigrants, and in America, prejudice against immigrants from law enforcement continues to be his greatest challenge.
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BRAINSTORM YOUR THESIS Create your own 2-part thesis statement. Create 2-3 sample theses that consider what the greatest problem the main character faced IN HIS OR HER OWN COUNTRY and in HIS OR HER NEW COUNTRY as an immigrant, refugee, or interned person.

1. In _____, the greatest challenge the character faces is _____
_____, but later, the greatest problem the character faces is _____

2. At first _____, but later _____

3. _____

EVALUATE: Which thesis is BEST SUPPORTED by the evidence in the book and the documents? _____

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STEP TWO: Create a title that connects to your thesis statement to provide a thematic framework for your essay. The title should be a BIG IDEA about challenges and prejudice relating to the treatment of immigrants, being a refugee, or being placed in an internment camp.

Sample essay titles from *Enrique's Journey*

1. Out of the Frying Pan
2. Running From Violence
3. No Escape From Violence

EVALUATE: Which one best fits the ideas in the books and the documents?

Now create three titles for your persuasive essay on immigration.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

EVALUATE: Which one fits the themes in the book and documents best?

Now create a lead that goes with the title you chose:

SAMPLES:

1. Sometimes, a person may try to escape a danger in his or her life, only to find that the farther he runs the closer he gets to idea that frightened them most.
2. Gun violence is a part of everyday life in many countries, but some countries do appear to be safer than others due to law enforcement or gun control measures.
3. When a person tries to escape violence, it is important that he or she makes changes in his or her personal behavior, or the violence may follow him or her.

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YOUR LEADS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Select your BEST LEAD sentence and then write 2-3 BRIDGE SENTENCES that introduce the character in your book AND connect that CHARACTER to the ideas of your LEAD. You should use the author's name and the book title in the bridge.

YOUR BRIDGE SENTENCES.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now let's put it all together:

Title: _____

Lead: _____

Bridge Sentences with Character, Title and author of book:

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Plot summary and main characters' names:

Thesis: _____

SAMPLE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH AND ESSAY TITLE

Out of the Frying Pan

Sometimes a person may try to escape a danger in his or her own life, only to find that the farther he or she runs, the closer he or she gets to the danger. This is true for the main character, Enrique, in the non-fiction book, *Enrique's Journey*, by Sonia Nazario. The book deals with a young boy who lives with his family in Tegucigalpa, Honduras which is a city that is violent and full of danger. Enrique's family is very poor and when he is five years old, his mother, Lourdes, leaves him and his older sister and travels to California. Lourdes hopes to earn enough money in the United States by working so that she can return home and provide a better life for her two children. Without his mother to guide and love him, Enrique spirals out of control. He becomes violent and starts using drugs and hanging out with people who are involved with gangs. Over time, Enrique worries that his mother is not coming home and when he is sixteen, he tries to join his mother in the United States. Enrique makes eight trips from Honduras on dangerous trains and roads in Mexico before he finally arrives in America in 2000. Enrique hopes that by rejoining his mother, he will be able to get away from a life of crime. While his greatest struggle in Honduras and Mexico is the constant threat of

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violence from gangs, he finds that in America his greatest struggle is the continued threat of violence from gang members who target him.

PART TWO:FIRST BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic sentence: Your topic sentence should use the first HALF OF YOUR THESIS, but add a BECAUSE statement.

Example:

Enrique's greatest struggle while living in Honduras and while traveling through Mexico was the constant threat of violence from gangs BECAUSE Honduras has one of the highest levels of gang violence and many gangs target immigrants fleeing through Mexico.

Now create your own topic sentence using the first part of your thesis plus a BECAUSE statement

Topic sentence

Now find 2-3 details FROM THE BOOK and FROM THE DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR BOOK THAT SUPPORT THE CLAIM.

Fact One:

(Source)

Fact Two:

(Source)

Fact Three:

(Source)

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NOW, put it all together into your first body paragraph

TOPIC SENTENCE: _____

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE: _____

EXPLANATION: _____

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE: _____

EXPLANATION: _____

DATA EXAMPLE: _____

EXPLANATION: _____

CONCLUDING SENTENCE:

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SAMPLE BODY PARAGRAPH ONE:

TOPIC SENTENCE:

Enrique's greatest struggle while living in Honduras and while traveling through Mexico was the constant threat of violence from gangs BECAUSE Honduras has one of the highest levels of gang violence and many gangs target immigrants fleeing through Mexico.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE:

First, Enrique suffers a major loss when Uncle Marco, who was a father figure to him was killed by robbers while working in his job as a currency exchanger. As Nazario reports, "Robbers spray their car with bullets. The car with Enrique's uncles careens off the road. The thieves shoot Uncle Marco three times in the chest and once in the leg. They shoot Victor in the face" (Nazario 39-40). This quote shows the way that violence is a constant threat to Enrique's family, and it takes away the only man who takes quality care of Enrique in Honduras.

DATA EXAMPLE:

Also, according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime data from 2010, Honduras leads the world with the highest homicide rate. In 2012, some 90 people were murdered for every 100,000 (Document One). In 2012, just 49% of Hondurans said they felt safe walking alone at night, according to a Gallup Poll (Document Two). These documents show that Uncle Marco's death was not an isolated incident. Instead, people in Honduras live with the constant threat of violence from gangs.

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE:

While in Las Anonas, an area in Oaxaca, Enrique is violently robbed by bandits on top of a train. They beat him so badly with a wooden club that they break several of his

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teeth, rob him of his money and clothes, and leave him on the verge of death (Nazario 59).

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: Clearly, for people living in Honduras or traveling on trains through Mexico, the threat of violence and robbery is a constant danger that is hard to escape.

EVALUATE:

What could make the above paragraph stronger? What is confusing and needs more explanation?

Have a peer look at your BODY PARAGRAPH ONE.

What could make your body paragraph stronger?

What is confusing and needs more explanation?

What grammar errors or MLA Citation errors are in your first body paragraph?

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PART THREE: SECOND BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic sentence: Your topic sentence should use the second HALF OF YOUR THESIS, but add a BECAUSE statement.

Example:

Once in America, Enrique continues to be plagued by violence from gangs, and he is specifically targeted BECAUSE as an illegal immigrant, he is fearful about reporting crimes.

Now create your own topic sentence using the second part of your thesis plus a BECAUSE statement.

Topic sentence

Now find 2-3 details FROM THE BOOK and FROM THE DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR BOOK THAT SUPPORT THE CLAIM.

Fact One:

(Source)

Fact Two:

(Source)

Fact Three:

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(Source)

NOW, put it all together into your second body paragraph

TOPIC SENTENCE: _____

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE: _____

EXPLANATION: _____

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE: _____

EXPLANATION: _____

DATA EXAMPLE: _____

EXPLANATION: _____

CONCLUDING SENTENCE:

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SAMPLE BODY PARAGRAPH TWO:

TOPIC SENTENCE:

Once in America, Enrique continues to be plagued by violence and he is specifically targeted because as an illegal immigrant, he is fearful about reporting crimes.

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE: In Florida, Enrique and his friends are targets of violence from gangs. His friends are at risk for being robbed because on Fridays they carry money from paychecks they cash, since it is hard to get a bank account without documents like a driver's license. Nazario recounts that "[t]o a group of African American gangsters at the apartment complex, wads of cash, plus the fact that the Latino men are unwilling to report crimes to police for fear of being deported make them an ideal target" (Nazario 205).

DATA EXAMPLE:

In the cartoon by Joe Heller from 2013, immigrants from Central America are depicted at the U.S. border. They tell American children, "We're looking for a safe place away from the endless violence in our countries." The American children reply "Then you'd better keep moving" (Document Four). This cartoon shows the opinion that it is just as dangerous and violent in the United States as it is in Central America.

TEXTUAL EXAMPLE:

In Florida, Enrique and his friends get violently attacked by gangsters. Enrique is thrown over a railing of a stairs. When Enrique's friend refuses to hand over his cell, his watch, and his wallet, they slam the back of his head into the wall and he is hit in the head by a shotgun, causing a massive head wound. Soon after, Enrique is shot out when sitting outside on a bench, and someone rams into the front of his car to try to intimidate him not to report the violence against his friend (Nazario 205-06).

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: Ironically, Enrique's life is even more dangerous in America than it was in Honduras because he is specifically a target of violence because he is an illegal immigrant and does not have the security of a bank account and a driving license and the comfort to report crimes without fear of deportation.

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EVALUATE:

What could make the above paragraph stronger? What is confusing?

Have a peer look at your BODY PARAGRAPH TWO.

What could make the above paragraph stronger?

What is confusing and needs more explanation?

What grammar errors or MLA Citation errors are in your second body paragraph?